

Celebrations: the 70 years of the University of São Paulo and the Brazilian Nursing

On January 25, 2004 we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the University of São Paulo. What's the meaning of this celebration for the Brazilian nursing?

Statistics confirm the position of USP as the best institution of higher education and research of the country. It's the third in Latin America and it's among the first one hundred organizations of its kind in the world. In 6 university campuses distributed in the capital and the country side of São Paulo State, it has 36 teaching units which, together minister 189 undergraduate courses, where they receive 42,554 students, 267 Master's students and 252 Doctorate students with the amount of 27,709 enrolled students. Having more than 4,800 professors and 14,900 employees, it annually graduates in average 4,600 undergraduate students. It also holds scientific bases, museums, specialized institutes, complementary institutions and associated entities.

On January 25th, 1934, the act 6283, signed by Armando Salles de Oliveira, the São Paulo State governor in that time, created the University of São Paulo and established its purposes: to promote research, the progress of science; to transmit by teaching knowledge which enrich and develop the spirit and be useful in life; to make specialists in all the culture areas, technicians and professionals in all professions of scientific and artistic basis; to carry out social work to spread science, languages and arts; by condensed courses, conferences, lectures, radio broadcast, scientific films and similar. Since then, it carries the "win by science" legacy.

The University of São Paulo holds two Nursing Schools: The Nursing School of USP, in the city of São Paulo, created on October 31st, 1942 and the Nursing School of Ribeirão Preto – USP, created on December 26th, 1951.

Since their creation, the two schools were lucky to have visionary nurses on their management positions: Edith Magalhães Fraenkel was the first dean in São Paulo, and Glete de Alcântara in Ribeirão Preto. This fact enabled the two teaching units to mark their course with pioneering and vanguard initiatives. Among their goals they established beyond the graduation of nursing professionals, specialists and researchers, a group of activities on community service, national and international exchange, collaboration with government and non-government agencies that aimed improvement of the population health conditions and the diffusion of nursing and health knowledge.

Today, the two nursing schools of USP can be proud of having in their background the participation in the Brazilian nursing life, which has been consolidating through time. We emphasize the first Brazilian Nursing Congress held in São Paulo in 1946 and the first National Seminar on Nursing Research held in Ribeirão Preto in 1979 with the decisive effort by the teaching staff of the two schools.

The two schools have acted on scientific publishing since the time of nursing Annals published by ABEn and nowadays they have two journals of international circulation, informative newspapers and websites available on the Internet. Their libraries hold the most representative and complete nursing collection of the country.

They had already had great experience in offering specialization courses when they created Master's courses in the 1970s. In 1981 the first Doctorate program in Nursing in Latin America was born, with the union of the two schools, majoring the first doctors who formed the university researcher and professor critical mass for the country and abroad.

Among the theorizing on the scientific activities, it can be distinguished three categories to the science communication: primary communication, which happens between pairs in the same area, discipline or specialty; didactic communication, between the teacher and the student; and the secondary communication, between the academy and the society, guided to the lay public. As an integrate part of the University of São Paulo, the Nursing School can be proud of its performance, on search for achieving the aims aforementioned, promoting research, forming human resources and spreading knowledge on its broadest way.

This issue number 2 of REEUSP, for example, publishes 12 research works, in which 5 came from strict sense post-graduation (Master's and Doctorate) and other 3 received support from a financing organs (CNPq, FAPESP and COSEAS scholarship), presenting their importance to the academy and society.

How is the knowledge of our pairs, coworkers, it is approached on articles which verify how much healthcare professionals know about blood pressure measurement, intramuscular medication application and how they make the embracement at the Family Healthcare Services.

How our pairs have been feeling at work is the focus of researches that verify the intensity of stress on the nurse who has two work shifts and that one who analyses the psychological variables on the professional performance at the Intensive Care Unit.

The didactic communication is reviewed on an article that identifies the most valued area by the nursing student regarding to the professor performance, concluding that the affective aspects of the professor-student relationship are mediators to which, through the domain both in knowledge and discipline, as the didactic-pedagogical aspects by the teaching staff, the learning-teaching process come successfully true.

Teaching is also focused on the article, which exposes the facilitator strategies used for creating structures and anatomical organs with recyclable material for the middle level teaching; on the characterization of nursing undergraduate students with tobaccoism and a first-hand account on the health education for the mentally ill.

This issue also brings the social representations built by patients' relatives on the mental health-disease phenomenon (the hard living with differences...), the self-esteem and the nonverbal signs of the burn patients (higher on men!) and the simplified version of the Therapeutic Intervention Scoring System with the accuracy of its prognostic value.

We hope the researches published here can be useful.

Have a good reading!